WORLD AIDS DAY 2000 Think, Remember! World AIDS Campaign

By: Mr. Edward Wolfgang, Community Health Nurse

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is undeniably shaping the world in which we live. The medical community considers it one of the most significant emerging healthcare issues we face today. It is socially, financially and personally touching every person within our global neighborhood. Once considered a disease afflicting only certain fringes of our society, this public health concern now reaches far into our own communities. Directly, some of us may have a brother, sister, friend or acquaintance living with this disease. For all of us, we have witnessed its indirect and detrimental impact upon our economy and health care system. For developing countries, its effects are far more reaching setting back decades of hard-won advancements in education, agriculture and government.



The observance of World AIDS Day will be commemorated on "1 December 2000." This year WRAMC will create a panel of the famous "AIDS Memorial Quilt." Creating a panel for the quilt will take place from 0900-1500 on the second floor lobby of Heaton Pavilion. Quilt material, including markers and thread, will be available for participants to utilize. For more elaborate ideas, please bring your own supplies. In addition to creating a panel of the quilt, HIV/AIDS educational displays and literature will also be available. Staff from the Social Security Agency, Social Security Disability Determination Office, Social Work Department, Preventive Medicine Service, Jackson Foundation, HIV Nursing, Infection Control Office, Chaplain's Office, Nutritional Directorate and Infectious Disease Service will also be available to answer questions.

The theme for the 13th annual World AIDS day at WRAMC is "Think, Remember." This theme reflects the fact that more and more people are contracting HIV/AIDS. If a person takes the time to "Think, Remember" and take preventive measures, HIV/AIDS can be avoided.

World AIDS Day provides an important opportunity to increase awareness of HIV and AIDS in the general public, to carry prevention messages into communities and to improve care for those infected by HIV/AIDS. December 1st is an opportunity to show solidarity with the over 34.3 million people who are today estimated to be living with HIV or AIDS and to remember the millions who have died.

- Less than 10% of the American population today uses a form of protection consistently to prevent STD's/HIV.
- 80% of Americans infected with HIV do not even know they are infected.
- Today the average person who contracts HIV does not develop AIDS for 10 or more years, causing an increase in transmission rates.
- If someone would take the time to "Think and Remember", contracting HIV could be avoided.